



National FFA Organization

Premiere Leadership
Personal Growth
Career Success

New Jersey FFA Association • New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Corner of Warren and Market Streets • P.O. Box 330 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0330
1-877-Ag Ed FFA (243-3332) • Fax: (609) 633-2421

April 27, 2009

Dear Chapter Advisor:

It's almost that time of the year again when New Jersey FFA members will converge at Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences for the 80th New Jersey State FFA Convention. This is a joyous occasion to recognize our members for the successes they have acquired throughout this year. Along with the celebration comes a great responsibility of your chapter to the New Jersey FFA Association. In order to maintain your chapter charter, the New Jersey FFA Association requires you to send two representatives to serve as official delegates during the State Convention. Serving as a leadership delegate is an exciting and great leadership opportunity for two members of your FFA chapter. The delegates representing your chapter should be chosen based on their leadership roles as chapter FFA officers.

The delegate process is an important part of the New Jersey FFA State Convention. To ensure that this process is a success, I ask that you please distribute this packet to the two official delegates from your FFA Chapter. Please make sure to discuss the information provided with your FFA chapter members. It is very important that they have an understanding of the material. The business conducted by the 80th New Jersey FFA Convention delegates will impact New Jersey's 1,970 members for the next year and years to come.

Serving as a delegate is an honor, and like many honors, is accompanied by great responsibility. Delegates must have strong leadership qualities and enthusiasm. They are your FFA chapter representation and must be dedicated to bringing your chapter's voice to the decision making process. Our association relies on these individuals to continue the success of New Jersey FFA. These members will serve as role models to those in attendance at the state convention.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Erin Noble, State FFA Specialist, at 877-243-3332. If you have not notified the State Office of the names of your delegates, please do so immediately. The 2008-2009 New Jersey FFA State Officer Team looks forward to seeing your chapter at the 80th New Jersey FFA State Convention as we "Serve Today to Impact the Future."

Sincerely,

Karis Byram

Karis Byram
2008-2009 New Jersey FFA President
New Jersey FFA - "Serve Today to Impact the Future."



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Dear 2009 State FFA Convention Delegates:

Congratulations on being chosen as a delegate for the 80th New Jersey State FFA Convention! The role of a delegate is essential to the success of convention. During your time as a delegate, you will be responsible for making decisions that will not only impact your chapter but all of New Jersey's 1,970 members from 37 chapters statewide. Your role at convention is to not only contribute to the delegate process but also to showcase your leadership skills and enthusiasm for the FFA. As a delegate you serve as a role model for other members. Whether delegates are dancing on stage at the beginning of sessions, pumping up members with excitement for sessions, or standing and cheering for awesome speakers or FFA members, state convention delegates serve as the heart and soul of the convention with some of the best seats in the house. Your enthusiasm and excitement is what will make this year's convention a success! I ask that you help me show the members how fun and exciting the New Jersey FFA State Convention can truly be.

The materials that are included in this packet will aid in your understanding of the delegate process, so I ask you to review them and discuss them with your advisor. In doing so you will be more informed and better able to make sound decisions at convention. You should also review the rules of parliamentary procedure. This will be crucial to your understanding of what occurs during the business sessions at convention. A summary of the motions has been enclosed for your reference.

Please find the following items in your delegate packet. Bring this material to the delegate meeting on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00 pm in Hickman Hall, Room 138. See you then!

2009 State Convention Delegate Checklist

- _____ **Introductory Delegate letter**
- _____ **Schedule for Delegates**
- _____ **Chapter Committee Assignments**
- _____ **Proposed Dues Proposal for 2009-2010**
- _____ **Constitutional amendments (3) for consideration at National Convention**
- _____ **Useful Information for Delegate Business Session**
- _____ **Summary of Motions**

Also Bring:

- _____ **Notebook**
- _____ **Pens and Pencils**
- _____ **FFA Manual**
- _____ **Calendar to mark important dates**

Please review the enclosed material carefully. We encourage you to bring discussion to the delegate business meeting during the convention. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Erin Noble, State FFA Specialist, at 877-243-3332 or myself at mhc360@yahoo.com. The 2008-2009 New Jersey State FFA Officers look forward to your attendance and participation!

Sincerely,
Karis Byram

Karis Byram
2008-2009 New Jersey FFA President

2009 DELEGATE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Nominating Comm: 1:00 pm - Hickman Hall, Room 117

Delegates arrive: 2:00 pm - Registration – Perry Residence Hall

Dinner: 5:00 to 5:45 pm - Neilson Dining Hall

Delegate Orientation: 6:00 pm - Hickman Hall, Room 138

First Session: (Delegates in seats at 7:15 pm)
7:30 pm - Hickman Hall, Room 138
Keynote Speaker: Barrett Keene
FFA Scholarship Presentations
Reflections

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Second Session:

(Delegates in seats at 8:15 am)
8:30 am - Hickman Hall, Room 138
Summer and Fall Career Development Event Awards

Committee Meetings: 10:00 am

- **Constitution, Bylaws and POA**
Hickman Hall, Room 127, Karis Byram, State FFA President
- **CDE Review and Evaluation**
Hickman Hall, Room 129, Hanna Toft, State FFA Treasurer
- **Membership and Chapter Relations**
Hickman Hall, Room 130, Mark Boyko, State FFA Reporter
- **State Leadership Activities**
Hickman Hall, Room 114, Brianne Scholl, State FFA Parliamentarian
- **State FFA Applications**
Hickman Hall, 2nd Floor Room 209, Keely Weinberger, State FFA Secretary
- **Hort Expo Review and Evaluation**
Hickman Hall, Room 115, Gabrielle Ritzer, State FFA Sentinel
- **State Convention Evaluation**
Hickman Hall, 2nd Floor Room 210, Annaliese Gancarz, State FFA Vice President

Delegate Business Session* 1:00 pm - Hickman Hall, Room 138

Third Session: 2:30 pm - Hickman Hall, Room 138
Spring Career Development Event Awards
Convention Event Awards

- Banquet:** **5:00 pm** – Neilson Dining Hall
First Place Ceremonies Presentation
New Jersey Member of the Month/Year
FFA Advisor of the Year
Distinguished Service Awards
- Fourth Session:** **(Delegates in seats at 7:15 pm)**
7:30 pm - Hickman Hall, Room 138
Keynote Address: Brady Revels,
Past National FFA Southern Region Vice President
Greetings from the National FFA Advisor, Dr. Larry Case
NJ FFA Association Annual Report
Honorary Garden State FFA Degree Ceremony
- *Delegate Business Session** This session will be conducted if needed following the Fourth Convention Session

Thursday, May 21, 2009

- Fifth Session: **(Delegates in seats at 8:15 am)**
8:30 am - Hickman Hall, Room 138
Committee Reports
Chapter Evaluation Awards
State Proficiency Award Presentations
Garden State Degree Ceremony
Nominating Committee Report
Installation of 2009-10 State FFA Officers

Committee Assignments

Chapter	Region	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Allentown	Central	D	B
Bankbridge Regional	Southern	F	G
BCIT- Medford	Central	E	F
BCIT- Westampton	Central	D	B
Belvidere	Northern	A	F
BTHS	Central	E	F
Buena	Southern	C	G
Camden Pennsauken	Southern	A	E
Camden Tech East	Southern	G	E
Cape May County Tech	Southern	D	G
Cumberland Regional	Southern	E	B
Delsea Regional	Southern	E	G
Freehold	Central	D	B
H.O. Sampson Collegiate	Central	A	E
Hackettstown	Northern	C	B
Middlesex East Brunswick	Central	E	F
Middlesex Piscataway	Central	C	G
Monmouth County	Central	D	G
Newton	Northern	A	C
North Warren	Northern	A	F
Northern Burlington	Central	D	G
Northern Burlington Middle	Central	B	G
Ocean County	Central	B	C
Penns Grove	Southern	D	C
Phillipsburg	Northern	A	B
Salem Co. V.T.	Southern	A	F
Somerset	Central	A	F
South Hunterdon	Central	E	B
South Hunterdon Middle	Central	A	G
Sussex County	Northern	E	A
Union County	Northern	D	C
Warren Hills	Northern	C	F
West Essex	Northern	A	E
Woodstown	Southern	D	C

KEY TO COMMITTEES:

- A. Constitution, Bylaws and Program of Activities
- B. Career Development Event Review and Evaluation
- C. State Applications
- D. State Leadership Activities
- E. State Convention Evaluation
- F. Membership and Chapter Relations
- G. Horticultural Exposition Review and Evaluation

**Description of New Jersey FFA Dues Proposal
2009-2010**

Dues options for 2009-10 are as follows:

1. **Regular Dues**, which include:

National FFA Membership **\$5.00**

New Jersey State FFA Dues (supports State Activities)..... **\$6.00**

Subscription to *New Horizons Magazine*

Amount due all regular in-school members..... \$11.00

2. **"1+3" Membership Package** - Senior year dues @ \$11.00
+ 3 remaining years @ \$23.50 **\$34.50**

3. **3 Year Membership Package** (paid after senior year).....**\$23.50**

4. **FFA New Horizons** Magazine Subscription:

1 year (recommended for friends of FFA, school board members, administrators,
school library, local businesses, etc.)..... **\$12.00**

The Executive Board of the New Jersey FFA Association offers the following recommendations:

- Maintain state dues for the 2009-10 school year at \$6.00 per student per year.

Amendment Proposal 1
to the
National FFA Constitution & Bylaws
regarding
The Process for Amending the
National FFA Constitution and Bylaws

Submitted by: Illinois Association FFA

CURRENT

An amendment to the National FFA Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the official delegates at the national FFA convention. An amendment to the Bylaws shall require a majority vote of the official delegates at the National FFA Convention.

PROPOSED

An amendment to the National FFA Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the official delegates ***and ratification by a majority of the state associations with official delegates*** at the National FFA Convention. An amendment to the Bylaws shall require a majority vote of the official delegates ***and ratification by a majority of the state associations with official delegates*** at the National FFA Convention.

MOTION

To amend the vote by which amendments to the Constitution and ByLaws may be amended by inserting "*and ratification by a majority of the state associations with official delegates*" prior to the words "*at the National FFA Convention*" in **Article XVII, Section B**, of the National FFA Constitution.

RATIONALE

- ◆ This amendment reinforces the value of each state association's needs, while respecting the value of its' members. Under the 2008 National Convention Delegate allocation and the current rules, amendments to the bylaws can be made with only 9 states voting in favor.
- ◆ This amendment does not change the number of delegates nor the manner in which they are allocated.
- ◆ It is apparent in Public Law 105-225 (formerly PL81-740) and the National FFA Constitution that the rights of the state associations are to be secured. The current process places the control of the National Organization in the hands of a minority and does not preserve the right of all associations to control their own destiny, and effectively silences the voice of 41 of our state associations.
- ◆ In respect to constitutional issues, this proposal will set up a model similar to the United States Congress which values the rights of the citizens, but preserves the rights of the states. Regular business items would continue to be treated according to established Parliamentary Law.

EXAMPLE OF PROCESS

- ◆ One additional step would be required before a proposed amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws could be adopted.
- ◆ After the delegate vote was taken, a roll call by states would be conducted, with one official delegate selected by the State Association (presumably the State Association President) casting a vote: 1) to adopt the proposal, 2) to reject the proposal or 3) to abstain. A majority of the State Associations with official delegates seated at the National FFA Convention must vote in favor of adopting the proposal in order for it to be enacted. If the majority of the delegates fail to ratify a proposed amendment, the roll call by state would be unnecessary.

Amendment Proposal 2
to the
National FFA Constitution & Bylaws
regarding
American FFA Degree Requirements

BACKGROUND

Based on the request of the 2005 convention delegates, the National FFA Board of Directors at their January 2006 meeting established a taskforce to study changes concerning the earning requirements for the American FFA Degree and the standards used to meet a record of satisfactory community involvement. The taskforce met on November 13-14, 2007 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The taskforce consisted of four agriculture educators, four state staff, two teacher educators, one agriculture economist and one representative from business/industry. The taskforce was chaired by Dr. Ike Kershaw of the National FFA Board of Directors.

The recommendations by the taskforce were sent by the National FFA Board of Directors to the delegates at the 81st (2008) National FFA Convention. The delegates accepted the addition of the community service hours to the degree requirements. The National FFA Board of Directors reviewed the information the delegates considered at the 81st (2008) National FFA Convention that the delegates did not accept. The Awards and Revisions Committee, Chaired by Joel Larsen of the National FFA Board of Directors, reviewed the report of the American FFA Degree taskforce and recommended at their 2009 meeting that the National FFA Board of Directors send the proposal back to the delegates for consideration and adoption with a **suggested implementation date of 2012**.

MOTION

To amend the National FFA Constitution with the wording changes indicated in bold below:

1. **Article VI. Section F (American Degree), Item 5:** A student after entering agricultural education **must have: 1) earned at least \$ 10,000.00 and productively invested at least \$7,500.00; or 2) earned and productively invested \$2,000.00 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 10,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.**
2. **Article VI. Section E (State Degree), Item 4:** A student after entering agricultural education **must have: 1) earned and productively invested at least \$1000; or 2) worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or 3) a combination there of, in a supervised agricultural experience program.**
3. **Article VI., Section D (Chapter FFA Degree), Item 4:** A student after entering agricultural education **must have: 1) earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts; or 2) worked at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or 3) a combination there of, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.**

RATIONAL

The amendment supports the Taskforce's review and recommendation regarding updating the degree requirements.

Clarifies the current practice students must be in agricultural education and FFA members in order to receive the Chapter, State and American FFA Degrees.

Proposal 3
The National FFA Board of Directors Recommendation
Regarding the Setting of
National FFA Membership Dues

BACKGROUND

At the January 2009 meeting, the National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers reviewed the National FFA Organization's financial statement, 2009 Budget, 2009 Budget Adjustments and 2009 Budget reductions. The National FFA Board of Directors voted to recommend to the delegates at the 2009 National FFA Convention that FFA member dues be set at \$7 per member effective for the 2010-11 school year.

MOTION

To recommend to the delegates attending the October 2009 National FFA Convention that FFA membership dues be set at \$7.00 for 2010-11.

RATIONALE

In order for the National FFA Organization to deliver quality programs and services to its members additional financial resources are needed to meet the increasing costs of services. Over the past 13 years the cost to deliver FFA programs and services has continued to increase. Each year the National FFA Staff have attempted to continue to provide programs and services and sought every possible means to reduce costs.

National dues were last changed to \$5 in 1996.

Approximately half of each member's \$5 national dues are allocated to producing and mailing the *FFA New Horizons* magazine. Costs of producing the magazine have risen significantly. The organization has had to identify other sources of income to meet its publishing obligations to FFA members.

During the 1970s and 1980s, National FFA dues were increased every 3-4 years to keep pace with inflation and rising costs. The National FFA Organization has been able to avoid recommending an increase in dues since 1996 because the organization was able to find additional funding sources and secure efficiencies and cost savings to balance its budget. However, the national staff reported to the board that it is unable to confidently identify further financing solutions to maintain both the current level of services through fiscal year 2011 and a balanced budget without making significant expense and/or staffing reductions beginning with the FYE 2011 budget.

Additional information will be provided in the next few weeks regarding FFA membership dues!



Useful Information for the Delegate Business Session

The Meaning of “Motion”

The primary purpose of the delegate business session is for the delegates to make decisions. To begin the process of making any decision, a member offers a proposal by “making a motion.” A **motion** is a formal proposal by a member, in a meeting, that the group take a certain action.

How a motion gets before a group

How to make a main motion

1. Raise your delegate card.
2. Be recognized by the chair.
3. State your name and chapter.
4. State **“I move that . . .”** or **“I move to . . .”** and then clearly describe the proposal. It is important to say precisely what the words of the motion are to be. The group votes on exact language, not a vague idea.

How to second a motion

Once a member makes a main motion, it must be seconded to be considered by the group. This shows that at least two members want the motion considered. If there is no second, the motion dies and is not put before the group for discussion.

1. Raise your delegate card.
2. Be recognized by the chair.
3. State your name and chapter.
4. State **“I second the motion”** or **“Second”**

Some other motions you may hear in the delegate business session

Amendments

Amendments are used to modify the wording, and within limits, the meaning of the motion on the floor. Amendments should say exactly where the change is to be made and precisely what words to use. To make this motion, you would state **“I move to amend the main motion by . . .”** and then you would identify what you want to do. This action can include adding words, striking out words or adding and striking out words. An amendment may not change the original intent of the motion. The vote on the amendment *does not* decide whether the motion will be adopted, only whether the wording in the motion will be changed. After an amendment is adopted, the motion as amended can be further debated. If an amendment is adopted, a vote will be taken on the main motion as amended. Only if the motion as amended passes will the group decide to do what was proposed.

Previous Question

The adoption of previous question immediately closes debate and also prevents the making of any amendments. It may be made at any time while a debatable amendment is on the floor. Since it limits a member's rights, the motion for previous question requires a two-thirds vote. It is not debatable. The proper wording to close debate and immediately vote on the motion on the floor is to say, **“I move the previous question.”** If previous question passes, the main motion will get voted on immediately. If previous question fails, discussion may continue on the main motion before voting on it.

Division of the House

When you, as a delegate, reasonably doubt the result of a voice vote, you have the right to demand that the vote be re-taken as a counted vote, by calling division of the house.

Immediately following the vote and prior to the next action of the chair, you would call out **“Division of the house.”** No second is needed and once called the chair proceeds to give directions for a counted vote.

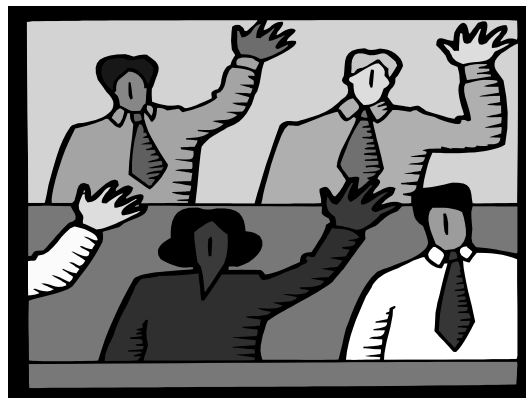
Voting

Majority

A **majority vote** is normally required to adopt a motion or to elect office. It is defined as “one more than half of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote.” The result of a majority vote is decided through a voice vote.

Two-thirds

A two-thirds vote is required in particular circumstances, most notably to suspend the rules or to limit, extend, or close debate. It is defined as “at least two-thirds of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote.” Whenever a two-thirds vote is required to pass a motion, the chair will take a standing vote.



Summary of Motions

Motion	Second Required	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Required	Reconsider
Privileged Motions					
Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	Yes
Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Recess	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Raise a Question of Privilege	No	No	No	Chair Grants	No
Call for the Orders of the Day	No	No	No	No vote, demand	No
Subsidiary Motions					
Lay on the table	Yes	No	No	Majority	Neg. only (3)
Previous Question	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes
Limit or Extend Limits of Debate	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	Yes
Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Commit or Refer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Amend	Yes	Yes (1)	Yes	Majority	Yes
Postpone Indefinitely	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	Affirm. Only
Main Motion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Incidental Motions					
Appeal	Yes	Yes (1)	No	Majority	Yes
Division of the Assembly	No	No	No	No vote, demand	No
Division of a Question	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Objection to the Consideration of a Question	No	No	No	2/3	Neg. only
Parliamentary Inquiry	No	No	No	Chair answers	No
Point of order	No	No	No	Normally no vote Chair rules	No
Suspend the Rules	Yes	No	No	(2)	No
Withdraw a Motion	No (3)	No	No	Majority (3)	Neg. Only
Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly					
Reconsider (4)	Yes	Yes (1)	No	Majority	No
Rescind (4)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority with notice, 2/3, or majority of membership (3)	Neg. Only
Take from the Table (4)	Yes	No	No	Majority	No

(1) If applied to a debatable motion

(2) Rules of Order - 2/3 vote, standing rules - majority vote

(3) Refer to *Robert's Rules of Order* Newly Revised (10th edition) for rule(s)

(4) Refer to CDE rule #9 before using these motions in the demonstration

The parliamentary procedure career development event committee developed information on the chart by using *Robert's Rules of Order*.

For more information on parliamentary procedure, see the *FFA Student Handbook*, which contains a complete chapter on the subject.

Even more detail on the subject is available in parliamentary procedure books such as *Robert's Rules of Order*.